

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT Production of Very Pure Aluminum at the
Elektrochemisches Kombinat, Bitterfeld

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1. After the dismantling of the aluminum works of the Elektrochemisches Kombinat, Bitterfeld, in 1945, five distillation furnaces were left. A certain amount of research was performed for the Russians during the next few years by Dipl. Ing. Vieten on the distillation of pure aluminum from scrap metal. A very pure product was achieved which contained the following foreign matter: Magnesium, 0.15 to 0.20 per cent; zinc and lead, traces only; copper, not eliminated by this distillation process.
2. This pure aluminum was to be used instead of foundry aluminum as an alloying material, i.e. it was to be added to less pure aluminum in order to improve its purity.
3. At present (1950) three 3-ton furnaces are in operation. One distillation lasts from 8 to 10 hours, and the furnace has to be cleaned out after about ten charges. A process is at present used which produces aluminum having a magnesium content of 0.6 to 0.7 per cent, and traces of zinc. Some of this pure aluminum is then further purified, by an unknown process,
4. The present yearly output is about 1,000 tons of pure aluminum, and about 50 to 150 tons of very pure aluminum. The latter is believed to be 99.999 per cent pure.

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